

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A handling device for holding a bearing liner which is to be introduced into the socket of an acetabular cup comprising a support provided with means for aligning said handling device with said acetabular cup and having an opening which has a deformable rim adapted to receive the outer circumference of the bearing liner to be inserted, said support having a planar first portion including said opening and a planar second portion pivotally coupled to said first portion, said planar second portion pivotal about a pivot point from a first position oriented at an angle to said plane of said first portion to a second position parallel to said plane of said first portion and overlying an upper outer rim of said bearing liner.

2. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for alignment ~~of~~ with said acetabular cup are formed by a substantially flat lower surface surrounding said opening.

3. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said support is in the form of a substantially flat plate.

4. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said support is made from a sheet material.

5. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said support is made from a synthetic plastics material.

6. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the support has a castellated rim surrounding said opening.

7. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising means for retaining the bearing liner in the opening in the support.

8. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 7 wherein said retaining means are provided by said deformable rim which is adapted to resiliently grip the bearing liner.

9. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 7 wherein said retaining means are provided by a retainer adapted to extend across the upper rim of the bearing liner.

10. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein means are provided for securing the retainer to the support.

11. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said retaining means are formed by an extended portion of the support which is bent back across the upper rim of the bearing liner.

12. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said opening of said retainer is ~~provided with an opening~~ of smaller dimensions than the upper outer rim of the bearing liner, said opening being aligned with the opening in the support when in use.

13. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said retainer is formed with a manually deformable portion which is aligned with said opening in the support when in use.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) An instrument for aligning a liner and an outer shell of a two-piece prosthetic acetabular cup, the liner having a tapered male surface and an open end for receiving a bearing element and a shell having a complimentary tapered female surface comprising:

a retainer having a first portion with an opening having a perimeter for resiliently gripping the liner adjacent the open end thereof, the perimeter being in the form of a plurality of resiliently deformable elements, said retainer first portion including a handle portion for allowing the alignment of the tapered male surface in the liner with the tapered female surface on the shell said retainer having a second portion pivotally coupled to said first portion and pivotal from a position parallel to said opening to a position angled with respect to said opening.

19. (original) The instrument as set forth in claim 18 wherein the retainer is made of plastic.

20. (original) The instrument of claim 19 wherein the perimeter of the retainer surrounds an inner opening sized to receive an outer perimeter of the liner.

21. (original) The instrument of claim 20 wherein the resiliently deformable elements are formed by slits in said plastic extending radially outwardly from said inner perimeter of said opening.

22. (currently amended) The instrument as set forth in claim 18 wherein said ~~retainer includes two portions, a first portion including said resiliently deformable elements and~~ a second portion for contacting said liner at the open end thereof for preventing said liner from moving out of engagement with said resilient elements upon insertion of said liner into said shell.

23. (original) The instrument as set forth in claim 22 wherein the retainer is made of plastic.

24. (original) The instrument of claim 23 wherein the perimeter of the retainer surrounds an inner opening sized to receive an outer perimeter of the liner.

25. (original) The instrument of claim 24 wherein the resiliently deformable elements are formed by slits in said plastic extending radially outwardly from said inner perimeter of said opening.

26. (original) The instrument as set forth in claim 22 wherein said first and second portions are connected by a hinged joint.

27. (original) The instrument as set forth in claim 26 wherein said hinged joint forms part of said handle.

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)